

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter



Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners

Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Wednesday 31st March 2021



We didn't start this term and this year the way we had hoped but it is lovely to have all of the children back to school for the remainder of this term.

We are very proud of how well the children have returned to school and settled back into school life. You will see how much they are enjoying their learning over the next few pages. Pupil engagement was good during remote (blended) learning and this has certainly supported the children with their learning and continuing their learning journey.

I would like to thank you for your continued support with all of the continued procedures and routines. This will still be in place after the Easter holidays and we will continue to review them in line with the latest Government guidance. We wish you all a relaxing Easter break.

Here is a reminder of the contact tracing for over the Easter holidays: For the purposes of contact tracing, parents and carers need only inform the education setting of a positive case if the symptoms develop within 2 days of being in their education setting. If symptoms develop after 2 days, they do not need to inform the setting.

Therefore, this would require you sending me a ClassDojo message to notify me. I will check this each day at 12pm and 4pm on Friday and Saturday (I will not need to be notified after this day). This facility is only to be used for this purpose.

Where pupils test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays more than 2 days since being in an education setting, they will only need to inform their education setting if they will still be self-isolating when settings return. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Where pupils need to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case during the holidays, settings do not need to be informed about this until the first day of the Summer term.

For your reassurance, staff will continue to test twice a week at home throughout the Easter holidays. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of staff have received their first vaccination and more are due to have it by the end of this week.

School Improvement: our Recovery Curriculum

Before the new academic year, the teachers spent a lot of time refining our long term curriculum map to reflect the emphasis on the wider curriculum. All year groups (Year 1 to 6) will continue to focus on the same learning connection block at the same point but focus on a different concept. The aim of this is to make wider curriculum but to also build on the pupils' learning year upon year. For next term, the learning connection block is called, 'Discoveries'. Copies of the curriculum documents feature on the school website and the relevant ones shared via Microsoft Teams. The parent overview gives you a flavour of the learning taking place during the concept; the knowledge organiser which includes key facts the children need to know; and a homework menu for the children to carry out at home. Over the next few pages, look out for some of the excellent learning that the children have completed this half term.

As a result of school closures due to Covid-19, we planned a recovery curriculum and we have updated this again for when they returned in March to ensure children settle back into learning quickly and continue to make accelerated progress. It focuses on the children's learning but also their well-being. A full copy of this is on the school website.

We are trying to be an 'Eco friendly' school so we don't send home newsletters. Black and white copies are available in the foyer. It will also be available on the website under 'Newsletters' in the 'Parents' tab and will be posted on ClassDojo.



Year F

'People Who Help Us'

Following on from their home learning, the children in Year F continued to learn about the important jobs of people who help us.

The children learnt all about the RNLI...



... and created their own life boats. They then tested them to see if they could float whilst carrying a passenger.



Year F have also been taking full advantage of a range of outdoor learning opportunities to help them develop their collaborative skills



Year 1

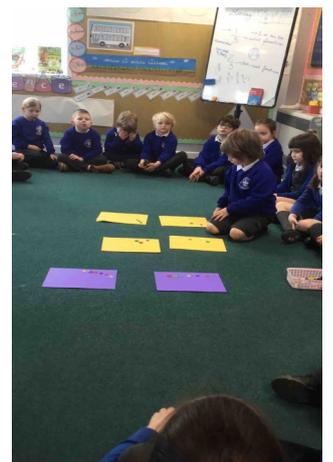


In Year 1, we have been exploring our feelings and emotions. Then, as part of our outdoor learning, we have also had fun creating our own clay tree faces.



Year 2

Year 2 has been very busy since coming back to school! We have continued learning about the Rainforest and have been having lots of adventures during Wild Tribe! In our computing we have become game testers! We have explored what we like and do not like about games and how we could make them better, ready for our next topic of becoming game makers.



We have also been learning about fractions and using role play to help with our learning.

Year 3

Year 3 have been working in groups for numerous task and subjects to develop their team building skills. Year 3 have been learning in creative ways: puppet show; role play; outdoor learning activities; creating technological surveys; presentations. Year 3 have engaged well with the topic tectonics in Geography, learning about the structure of Earth, why earthquakes happen and how volcanoes form and erupt around the world.



Year 4



During Science, we went on an invertebrate hunt around the school.



Year 4 looking around the school grounds to complete a local wildlife survey.



Year 4 created a piece of art, which involved using shaving foam and paint to create a marbling effect.



Year 5



We have nearly reached the end of Spring 2 and our fourth week of being back at school. Year Five pupils are back into the swing of learning and are doing brilliantly!

We have been taking plant cuttings, teaching each other quick exercise routines, learning fractions in the playground, refining our gymnastics skills, learning pronouns and verbs in French, study film techniques and much, much more!

A Boy's Head

In it there is a space ship
and a project
for doing away with piano lessons.

And there is
Noah's ark,
which shall be first.

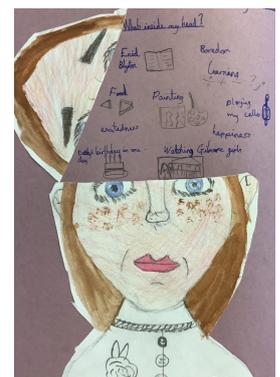
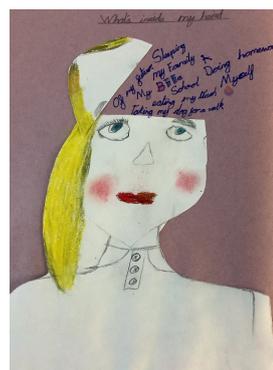
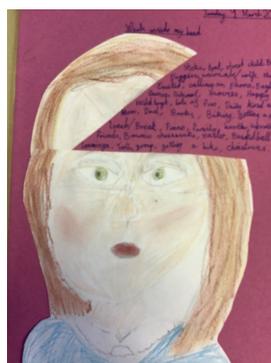
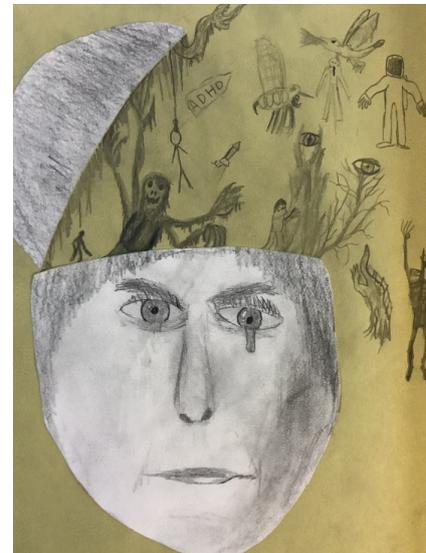
And there is
an entirely new bird,
an entirely new hare,
an entirely new bumble-bee.

There is a river
that flows upwards.

There is anti-matter.

I believe
that only what cannot be trimmed
is a head.

There is much promise
In the circumstance
That so many people have heads.



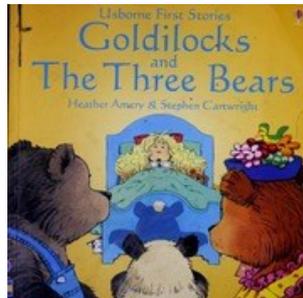
As part of our recovery curriculum, we looked at this poem by Miroslav Holub. We then drew self portraits and opened them up to reveal what was inside our heads.

Year 6

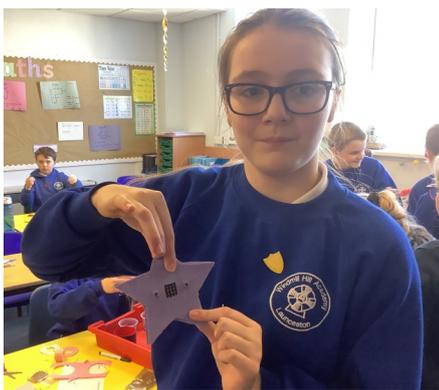
As part of our English this term, Year 6 have been debating topical issues like: Should children wear school uniforms? Should mobile phones be allowed in school? Was Goldilocks a criminal?

The children have thoroughly enjoyed this topic and almost everyone has had ideas – for, or against, the topic being debated. ‘Mr. Speaker’ has always led the debate, demanded “Order in the Court” when necessary, summed up, asked the court to decide on the basis of what they had heard during the proceedings and announced the Guilty or Not guilty verdict, or the yes or no decision.

The children enjoy debating these issues but it is always interesting to hear their views when Miss Young suggests that the traditional tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears can be viewed very differently if you think about the thoughts and reasons for each other’s actions.



Also this term, as part of Year 6’s DT and Computing lessons — (Computing to Program Topic) the children have enjoyed making felt badges to hold Micro:bits which will digitally display their names for when they are at college. After choosing the shape they liked and the colour of felt they wanted it was a tricky task to cut it out and cut the small holes necessary for the components of the microbits to be visible. Then came the even trickier task of learning how to thread a needle and sew around the shape to keep the microbit secure. Of course, some of the children could already sew (especially those who had gone to Mrs. Williams’ sewing club!) and those children proved very helpful to their peers who were struggling. The finished product, after being programmed by the children themselves, will be something new and exciting.



Amazing Achievements

Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
12th March	Julia Maja	Shiying Filip	Max Y Zachary	Lexi W Seth	Oscar Mason	Barnaby Benjamin	Selime Jayden
19th March	Bobby Alfie	Adem Hannah	Isabella Buddy	Riley Siqi	Izabella Owen	Lohen Elise	Aime Oscar K
26th March	Paige Teo	Margo Yushang	Sarah Harry	Sienna Mas Sam	Kayla Summer	Ava Oliwia	Bailey Poppy
1st April	Alex Rosie	Ella Adem	Max T Laura	Oliver Siqi	Poppy Jacob	Autumn Alex	Dillan Oliwia

Respect and Kindness

	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
12th March	Aidan (Y1)	Kanisha (Y4)	Lola (Y6)
19th March	Laura (Y2)	Tommy (Y3)	Callie (Y5)
26th March	Harry (YF)	Lacey (Y4)	Jowan (Y6)
1st April	Samantha (Y1)	Seth (Y3)	Lohen (Y5)

Positive Role Model

19th March
Elif (Y2)
1st April
Abigail

Raffle ticket winners

12th March
Emily (Y3), Elias (Y4) and Zack (Y6)
26th March
Marley (Y3), Jude (Y3) and Poppy (Y4)

Writers and Mathematicians of the half term

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Writing	Alfie	Imarni	Zachary	Isla	Izabella	Aimee	Flora
Maths	Florence	Shiying	Antoni	Jack H	Phoebe	Eliza	Jayden

Visible Learners of the half term

Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Elsie	Kai	Chloe	Jamie	Zak	Nora	Isla
Jason	Autumn	Freddie C	Lexie G	Chelsee	Elsie	Ewan

Attendance Figures for March/April 2021

The class with the highest attendance each week, receives an extra playtime and the attendance trophy. If your child achieved 100% attendance for this term, they have received a badge for 100% as well as a bronze/silver badge—bronze for one term of 100% and silver for 2 terms. It has been pleasing to see that I have given out many of these today!

Each term they can earn a different colour attendance badge. And, for each term within the year, they can earn themselves an additional bronze, silver or gold badge.

Year	12th March	19th March	26th March	1st April
YF	99.3%	100% 	96.7%	95.8%
Y1	99.3%	99.3%	95.9%	97.4%
Y2	98.9%	90%	85%	84.1%
Y3	98.6%	96.6%	93.8%	94%
Y4	95.7%	97.9%	94.1%	95.5%
Y5	92.6%	90.8%	89.6%	92.6%
Y6	99.3%	100% 	90.4%	94.4%
Whole school	97.7%	96.5%	92.3%	93.4%

Our annual attendance target is 97%+.

Our attendance started really well upon the children returning to school but it has slowly decreased.

We understand in some circumstances this cannot be avoided, e.g. sickness, diarrhoea, Covid-19 symptoms.

However, if it is just a cold or similar they are okay to be in school. By not being in school, it has a significant effect on their learning, as well as their social skills, building relationships, self-esteem etc.

We closely monitor our attendance and have to inform the Education Welfare Officer if individuals fall below 95%.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As expected, Covid-19 restrictions have had a huge effect on the usual events we would normally hold. We will continue to review them in line with the latest guidance.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to carry out parent consultations in school. Therefore, on Friday 30th April your child will come home with a learning review slip. This will include your child's successes, next steps and attendance.

If you require a follow up telephone appointment with your child's class teacher, you will need to phone the office to arrange one at a mutually convenient time.

Please note, all external assessments have been cancelled, e.g. Year 6 SATs. However, we will continue to carry these out as part of assessing the children's learning but they will fall later within next term.

1st April	Last day of term
2nd April—16th April	Easter holidays
19th April	Pupils return to school
30th April	Spring Learning Review slips to parents
19th May	Bag 2 School Collection
31st May - 4th June	Half term
9th July	Reports to parents
Week beg 12th July	Whole school Transition week
21st July	Last day of term for pupils
22nd and 23rd July	INSET Days
6th September	INSET Day
7th September	Pupils return to school



Bag2School

The Easter holidays is a perfect time to have a good clear out at home and we welcome donations to our Bag 2 School collection. Please bring your donations into school (use own bags) on the morning of collection (19th May) and leave outside the main entrance. Items collected - men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories. (No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please). All funds raised will go to the Friends of WHA.

End of Day Arrangements

Your child would have come home with an end of day arrangements form for you to fill in. We are asking for all parents to fill these in and return by the end of the first week after Easter (23rd April) to ensure all of our records are up to date. Thank you to those who have already promptly returned them.

For safeguarding reasons, pupils will only be able to be picked up by those listed (unless notified by 2.30pm on the day by the parent). This also applies to those in Y4/5/6 walking home - they will only be able to walk home if permission has been given on the form.

Windmill Breakfast Club



Windmill Hill Academy has provision for before school opens in the form of a Breakfast Club. It has fully opened in line with the Covid-19 regulations for breakfast clubs.

If you are in need of childcare before the school day commences, why not book into the Breakfast Club where they can safely eat breakfast and play within their class bubbles between the hours of 8am and 9am. They will be supervised by two qualified staff, Mrs Williams and Mrs Rutherford, for the duration of their stay before being escorted to their classrooms at the appropriate times.

There is a small charge for attending the club: £3.00 per session which includes breakfast of cereals, toast, fruit and juice or milk. If you are in receipt of Child's Tax Credits you may be able to claim the childcare costs back when filling in your annual award. Receipts can be arranged for this (please speak to Mrs Williams). Also, children who are in receipt of free school dinners or PPG, the cost is £2 per session.

Booking onto the club can be done online through the EDUSPOT app www.eduspot.co.uk whereby you can book the days you require and pay for them too. It's so easy! You will have to set up your information with a current email address and mobile number.

If you need any more information with reference to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

